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POLISH CATHOLICS TAKE POPE TO TASK

Benedict's Proposal That Problems of Polish Nation be Left to Fate Arouses Poles' Indignation

Evidence continues to accumulate that in his feverish anxiety to rescue his autocratic allies from the onward sweep of world-wide democracy as well as secure prestige and power for himself and his church, Benedict XV in his famous peace proposal, perpetrated a colossal blunder rivaling in its stupid futility the German "Zimmerman Note" and the "Luxberg" dispatches. Among the nations of Europe no country was more prosperous and no people more brave or industrious than the kingdom and people of ancient Poland, until weakened by war and internal dissension it fell a prey to the rapacity of neighboring monarchies, and was conquered and divided between Russia, Austria and Prussia, since which time the condition of the Polish people has been pitiable in the extreme. About 4,000,000 Poles live in the United States, practically an immigration of later years, and constitute about one-fourth of the total Catholic population of the country, though they are denied all official recognition by the hierarchy, and are preyed upon and held down by their priest-hood.

Brave, industrious and in general good citizens of their adopted country it is no wonder that they eagerly watch the events of the big war, or that so many of them are enlisting in the armies of the U. S. for they know that every gun fired at the Austro-German autocracy is a shot fired in behalf of the freedom of Poland and its people.

The Polish question is a live one in the settlement of the present war issues. Shortly after the beginning of the war the czar, of Russia, to hold the allegiance of the Poles, promised them autonomy and semi-independence in case of victory. The fortunes of war threw Russia-Poland into the hands of the Germans, who proposed to make that part of Poland a separate kingdom with a German prince as king, holding Prussia-Poland as a part of Germany. Austria was to keep what it had of the ancient kingdom. In the meantime the Poles demanded that the whole of the ancient country be restored to them with independent government and a guarantee of the rights of freedom of press, speech, education and religion, which is exactly what the great autocrats, Wilhelm of Potsdam, Charles of Vienna and Benedict of Rome are not going to allow any people to have if they can help it.

In his peace note Benedict proposes to leave the fate of the Poles to a council composed in part of the powers which now hold them in subjection, and who in this case of war treat them worse than even the Belgians are treated; vast numbers of them dying of starvation in the fields and the highways while the cry of suffering Poland for relief and vengeance against their German conquerors fills the earth, reaches heaven and of itself is sufficient cause for intervention by any civilized nation. The Poles resent the manner in which they are treated by the head of their church and the Polish National Defense Committee makes public a letter of protest to the Rt. Rev. Bonzano, representative of the pope in America, rivaling even the denunciation of "papal condonation" by Italian Catholics as recorded in last week's MENACE. They say, according to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch of Sept. 8:

"Painful and unexpected, however, is the attitude assumed by the holy see with regard to the rights of the Polish nation to liberty and independence. His holiness speaks of the Polish question in the following words:

"The same spirit of equality and justice ought to be followed in the examination of other territorial and political questions... relative... to territories making a part of the ancient kingdom of Poland, whose noble and historical traditions and sufferings which it has endured, especially during the present war, ought to conciliate the sympathies of nations."

"Thus in the opinion of the holy see, Poland is not a nation which is fully entitled to independent political life. His holiness does not demand that the Germans evacuate the territory of the former Commonwealth of Poland, which is almost in its entirety occupied by the armies of Germany and Austria-Hungary. The holy see does not recognize the sovereign rights of the Polish nation to its own territory, but merely speaks of sympathies of nations, which Poland ought to conciliate because of the sufferings she has endured. According to the terms of the Apostolic letter, Poland is but 'a territorial and political question which should be examined' not in its entirety but only in 'part.' The fate of the rest of the 'parts' of Poland which his holiness excludes from the examination remains unknown. Which of the partitioning powers is therefore to have possession of the excluded parts of Poland?"

"In the opinion of the holy see the Poles are not even entitled to decide about their own fate. The apostolic letter expressly defines the composition of the body, which is to examine the territorial questions. In the paragraph relating to this subject we read as follows:

"The parties in conflict would wish to examine them with a conciliatory disposition, taking into consideration, as we said formerly, the aspirations of the peoples."

THE POPE QUITS PEACE BUSINESS

The pope has gone out of the peace business according to dispatches sent out from Washington on September 19. The pope pays quite a tribute to America's stand with President Wilson in the interest of world democracy.

This is not done, necessarily, as a compliment but it resolves itself into such because the pope recognizes that the entire resources of America are dedicated to this war and that we are going to see it through to a successful finish or perish in the attempt. When the pope "from the vatican hills" can see so much it is time for Germany to begin to open her eyes and for America to see that she does. The time is coming when, as the autocrat of Germany casts his gaze into the heavens in search of the visage of Him who he claims as partner, he will see stars instead, stars with as fixed a place in his vision as the stars in old glory.

wish to examine them with a conciliatory disposition, taking into consideration, as we said formerly, the aspirations of the peoples."

"Thus the Polish nation is supposed to wait patiently, without participating in the congress of the leaders of the belligerent nations, while these leaders decide the fate of but a 'part' of Poland."

"If such is to be the 'supremacy of right' referred to by the holy see, we can give the positive assurance that there will not be one single citizen in Poland who will assent to such decision made by the participating powers."

"Different was the tenor of addresses directed by the predecessors of his holiness, Benedict XV, to the Polish nation at the time of the latter's triumphs over the foes of Poland."

"At the time when the Polish kings triumphed over the German empire and were about to crush the rebellious and treacherous Teutonic Order of the Cross the holy see defending the Germans insisted that they should be spared by the Polish kings and did not shrink from interdicting the recalcitrant Polish kings and the entire Polish nation, when the Poles were protecting their own interests."

"Clear and peremptory was also the attitude assumed by the holy see when it frustrated, in the interests of the Roman Catholic church and to the disadvantage of the Polish and of the Russian nations, the victory of King Stefan Batory, elected king by the Poles through a free election, over Ivan the Terrible, of Muscovy, the greatest tyrant since Nero. By this action of the holy see, the eastward march of civilization was halted and the Russian nation delivered into a bondage of an autocracy."

"Clear and peremptory was the tenor of the demand made by the holy see upon the king of Poland, John II Sobieski, to save Austria, contrary to the interest of Poland, from the danger threatening at that time the Hapsburg empire at the hands of the Moslems."

"On the other hand the connivance of the holy see with Austria's participation in the partitions of Poland is a generally known fact. Known also is the interdict pronounced by the holy see against the Polish revolutionaries in 1830 and 1831."

"But now, when on May 28, 1917, the Polish nation through its representatives proclaimed at the city hall in Cracow a free, united and independent Poland with access to the sea by way of the port of Gdansk, Dantzig, the holy see failed to assume the same peremptory attitude as it took in the defense of Belgium and France and failed to demand from the Germans and Austrians the immediate evacuation of the territories of the former commonwealth of Poland, which was for so many years, nay, centuries, so loyal and so submissive to the Roman Catholic church."

"The attitude taken by the holy see with regard to the sovereign rights of the Polish nation assumes an entirely unexpected aspect when we take into consideration the fact that the Polish nation, suffering under the German occupation during starvation and deprived of their homesteads because of the burning down of thousands of villages and towns by the Russian and the German armies, managed to forward, often depriving their half-starving children of the last slice of bread, a very considerable amount of the Peter's Pence to His Holiness, the pope."

The vatican will have to send several more notes and explanations in order to clear things up and hold the Poles and some others to their allegiance to the church or they may fall out of line a-la Portugal and Mexico.

A Typical Letter

Editor MENACE:

Dear Sir: I have been a reader of THE MENACE, the very best friend of the American government and its ideals, for about five years and I expect to keep on taking it. Have just read first page of MENACE No. 331 and agree in everything set forth by Mr. Flower. Would that we had millions more like him. May God Bless you.—From a professor in an Arkansas city.

Rome's past predicts its future and interprets the meaning of its present doings. Consult the nearest library for papal history and intent.

PARKER MEETING IN CHARLES CITY

Vote is Unanimous That Facts as to Lecture Are Reverse of Report Knights Are Circulating

One of the most enthusiastic crowds that have greeted Billy Parker in the Iowa campaign was at Charles City on September 17. The claim of the Knights of Columbus that the meeting would be pro-German was circulated in advance with the result that the opera house was closed to Mr. Parker and the park commissioners refused to allow the meeting to be held in the park but Homestead's hall was secured and a great crowd eagerly listened to Mr. Parker's stirring remarks.

As an evidence of the good faith of Mr. Parker and the character of the meetings he is holding, nothing is more indicative than an incident of the Charles City meeting. At the close of the lecture Mr. Parker called for a vote from those convinced that his lecture was strongly American and the audience without a dissenting voice voted that the meeting was strongly American. This is all the more significant because of the fact that the mayor of the city and the sheriff were in attendance, doubtless as a precautionary measure and as a matter of duty since the Knights had been so free to circulate the report of pro-Germanism. Of course Mr. Parker not been able to procure a hall the public would never have known that the Knights were mistaken; the fact that a meeting could not have been held would have been accepted as prima facie evidence that the meetings were pro-German. Such is the object of Rome and the only antidote is to beat her at her own game but giving the people a chance to decide for themselves.

France is bleeding, say the papist publicists, because the French government deported some thousands of monks and nuns from that country. Profoundly logical! Does Austria bleed for the same reason?

Heretics may be more or less distressing, but they are not so demoralizing as hypocrites.

The Southern Illinois Record of Flora, Illinois, one E. B. Gorrell, editor, in its issue of September 13th ignorantly or wilfully joins the ranks of the prevaricators who in hopes of injuring the circulation of THE MENACE publish statements that it has been barred from the mails or suppressed by the government. As these statements are in general deliberately false our readers should pay no attention to them, other than to answer by a renewed effort to get subscribers and an increased business for it. When the government puts THE MENACE out of business we will let you know. Until then stay by your colors.

The Romanizing of Germantown, Pa.

According to the Independent Gazette of Germantown, Pa., there seems to be a rank and unjustifiable discrimination on the part of certain officials against the Sunday schools of Germantown. It has been the custom to allow the use of the city playgrounds for civil and other purposes without complaint or hindrance. Fourth of July celebrations were held in them, also various athletic societies conduct their sports there. At one of them the Hibernians were allowed to hold a carnival for two weeks, but when the Sunday schools of the city asked for the use of a playground in which to hold a historical pageant showing the religious life of the community in its early days they were refused. The Hibernians are an Irish Catholic organization and could get a playground for two weeks.

The Sunday schools are composed of Protestants, and couldn't get the use of a playground for an historical pageant for one day. What kind of officials does the city of Germantown have?

Jeremiah O'Leary of the American Truth (?) Society, and of the famous letter writing episode with President Wilson prior to the late election, is talked of as the future mayor of New York. He is backed up in his aspirations by the Friends of Irish Freedom and other haters of England and pro-Germans of the soap-box variety. The idea strikes us as a joke at the expense of the New Yorkers. Yet, O'Leary is but a shade removed from some other noted politicians of that Romanized town.

TWO VERY NOTABLE MEETINGS IN OHIO

Judge Gilbert O. Nations' Address to the Patriotic Citizens of Ashtabula and Painesville

On September 14th, Judge Gilbert O. Nations addressed a magnificent audience at Finnish Temperance Hall, Ashtabula, Ohio. Fully eight hundred people crowded into the auditorium, some few among the spectators being Knights of Columbus. The meeting was held under the auspices of the Guardians of Liberty and was one of the most successful of patriotic meetings that has been held in Ashtabula. Judge Nations was in excellent trim and for two hours held the audience spell-bound. The speech was enthusiastically received throughout, as was evidenced by the spontaneous outburst of applause that constantly greeted the logical and masterly conclusions of the speaker.

Judge Nations laid great emphasis on the fact that Dr. Walsh, Mr. Collins, Mr. Goldstein and other Romanists are constantly lecturing for the Knights of Columbus as shown by the Columbus, their national organ, but that Protestants are not found throwing bricks or other missiles through windows and practicing and threatening violence, indulging in boycott or employing pressure to prevent their meetings, nor are they attempting to prevent halls being used for such lectures, while on the other hand the Knights of Columbus—these master representatives of religious prejudice—are constantly indulging in these shameful, un-American, lawless and immoral actions.

In a telling manner Judge Nations dwelt at length on the fact that any cause or any system that has merit and therefore entitled to exist, is able and willing to defend itself in the court of public opinion and in the arena of free debate and does not resort to force or violence to stifle discussion or prevent criticism and that any system that does seek to deny its adversaries a hearing, confesses thereby that it is weak and cannot endure the lime-light of public scrutiny.

HOW ABOUT FRIENDS OF IRISH FREEDOM?

One familiar with the history of Rome's sympathy for the Austro-German alliance cannot help but wonder if, since the pope has gone out of the peace business, "The Friends of Irish Freedom" who have been promoting the pro-German movement or harassing our ally will also go out of business.

In other words has the pope gone out of the war business sufficiently that his determination not to push Germany's peace propaganda any further will affect the pro-German movements being carried on by his children in every one of the allied countries. Whatever the answer to that question may be, the pope like the kaiser, and the children of the pope like the children of the kaiser cannot undo their sayings and doings of the past. The status quo ante bellum is a hard thing to attain for the papacy, just as it is for Germany.

tiny. In his address Judge Nations quoted the greatest Catholic authorities in support of his every allegation.

On the afternoon of the 15th of September, Judge Nations went to Painesville to fulfill his engagement. He was billed to speak at the city hall but although the Protestants are largely in the majority, the intolerant Roman Catholics had succeeded in closing the hall and the Romanist chief of police stood at the hall during the afternoon and evening constantly announcing that no meeting would be held. Notwithstanding this, the meeting was held and was a splendid success. The Christian church, which is a block or two west of the city hall was thrown open and about four hundred people crowded into the church auditorium and enthusiastically applauded the speaker at every turn. When Judge Nations called attention to the intolerance of Rome and urged the audience to remember those who had truckled to Rome when they went to the polls the applause was deafening, showing the aroused determination of the true American. The meeting here, as at Ashtabula was a great success and resulted in greatly quickening the patriotic sentiment of the community.

American Law With Roman Exceptions

Attorney-General S. P. Freeling of Oklahoma, decides that by state constitutional provision and "bone dry law" of Oklahoma the use of wine for sacramental purposes is prohibited in that state. Bishop Meschert (Catholic) denounces the decision as "intolerable and outrageous," and declares his intention to continue to use the wine. Of course every Catholic priest in Oklahoma will follow the priest-bishop in defying the law.

Many Protestant ministers use unfermented wine or other substitutes for sacramental purposes and consider that they have no need for alcoholic wines, either by the bottle, case, or barrel as do their papal brethren.

Jesus Christ and THE MENACE are opening the people's eyes. "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." From a Firing Line worker.

The pope's Chicago archbishop declares that the constitution of Illinois is a "garment made for an infant" because it prohibits sectarian use of public funds. If the constitution of Illinois is an infant's garment because it was formulated in 1818, how about the unchangeable constitution of papal Rome which dates back beyond the infancy of civilization?

It seems that the Reformation celebrations of the year are attracting the attention not only of Protestants, but also of Romanists. The Rev. Father Ryan of St. Joseph's Seminary, in the state of New York, is not pleased a bit that such celebrations are being indulged in. Father Ryan thinks that "It is our duty to labor for the final undoing of the Reformation and to hasten the day when the whole miserable crew of reformers will be as dead as the Gnostics." It must be confessed that Father Ryan is somewhat ferocious. We do not know how dead the Gnostics are. They lived a long time ago. One thing we do know; that Romanists for four hundred years have been trying to do what Father Ryan wants done, and yet a big lot of the "miserable crew" are still here.—Exchange.

Jews as Citizens

We see by late papers that there will be about 60,000 Jewish soldiers and sailors in the United States service which will be a very large per cent for the total of Jewish population. The Jews are always true to the countries in which they live and are especially loyal to the United States where they find their greatest freedom and opportunity for advancement.

In every instance they can be depended upon to do their duty like men without boasting about it like children as do some others. We hope that one result of this war will be to give the Jew the freedom he deserves in every country, and a complete restoration of the land of his forefathers.

"RELIGIOUS" SCHEME IN POLITICAL DRESS

Crux of Political Move for Irish Freedom Rests on "Religious" Scheme

We cannot refrain from asking "What is the Callahan-Scott 'Religious Prejudice' Committee of the Knights of Columbus doing that it makes no effort to check the participation of brother knights in the wide-spread attempt to create Religious Prejudices in this country?"

That question is more than pertinent for it is related to the injection of prejudice in matters that just now are proving vexatious and a serious hindrance to a proper prosecution of the war, and while such a statement might be given anyone of a dozen turns for the sake of brevity, be it known that "Rome rule for Ireland" is THE QUESTION.

As a most able and conscientious writer recently observed the settlement of that question at this time would constitute an act of bad faith.

Briefly stated, when the southern, papal portion of Ireland and the northern, Protestant portion, discovered that opposition to papal domination on the one hand and a great longing for the same on the other, were questions which would not down, both the papal and the Protestant portions perfected militaristic organizations for the purpose of protecting their respective rights should matters come to a head and either side determine on armed activity.

Accordingly, when England went to the aid of France in 1914 the Carson army in northern Ireland and the Southern Volunteers in southern Ireland which had prepared against civil war were at the disposal of England. The Carsonites only asked that the Home Rule question be tabled until after the war. To this English statesmen agreed and though Protestant Ulster has done much more in the war proportionately, both north and south Ireland went into the fray.

However the nature of the power that has ever dominated the "home rule" majority has asserted itself in this question as it does in all questions where Jesuitical meddlers are seeking to advance the church at the expense of the existing and the prospective government. Knowing full well that fairness to Ulster demanded a burying of the hatchet until after the war, the "home rule" majority, dominated by the hierarchy, is insisting on a settlement of the question now. The supremacy of the Roman Catholic faith and the ascendancy of the church over the state is THE ISSUE, and is the reason for papal meddling in political matters with "religious motives."

Rome hates the Orangemen today as she has hated them ever since the battle of Boyne, and at all other times since they sprang into existence in self-protection against the free lance inquisitorial practices of organized Romanists. The Ulsterites know this and they also know that their only safeguard is protective organization, to be exerted first along peaceful political lines to maintain their liberties and second, if defense, in the event zealots should feel at any time that fresh atrocities must be indulged in.

Consequently the crux of the discussion about "home rule for Ireland" rests in the religious issue no matter how much it may be disguised as politics and the whole of Rome's meddling in the case is "religious zeal" seeking advantage in political supremacy.

Ulster is distrustful of the results to her schools and her ideals should she be handed over to the papal majority, and it would seem that England has shared her fears for home rule has been offered papal Ireland—providing Ulster should be left free to establish its own government. But no! "Roman democracy" wants home rule for itself but others must be subject to the said "democrats," so the papists of Canada, and of the United States, even including such Congressmen as McLaughlin of Pennsylvania, join in the "embarrassment of England" propaganda for religious reasons and endeavor to provoke indiscreet and arrogant demands from our government in favor of a system that has officially condoned the Austro-German slaughter of innocents and other atrocities that would "balk" even the ancient pagans upon whom both Germany and the Roman see are dependent for so much that is anti-Christian.

It evolves then that "Friends of Irish Freedom" and other papists including many of Mr. Callahan's brother knights are engaging in activities that raise the interrogation point when loyalty to America and her allies is considered and in addition point the way for very necessary expenditures on the part of the \$50,000 "Prejudice Commission" in order that its brothers in Rome may be taught the difference between "political freedom" and religious intolerance.

With the Liberty Bonds oversubscribed, and the Red Cross fund more than complete, the several autocrats of Europe are facing two scraps of paper that mean more than diplomatic notes.

Five or six separate and distinct rites of Roman Catholic worship suggest that popery might establish unity at home before offering it abroad.

MASSACHUSETTS PATRIOTS--BE ON GUARD OCT. 4

THE opportunity of a life-time confronts the patriotic people of Massachusetts—it is more than one opportunity for every day from now until the Curtis-Anderson anti-sectarian amendment is written into the statutes of Massachusetts as a part of the fundamental law of the land is fraught with splendid opportunities and each day that passes takes with it, time that will not return.

The Curtis-Anderson amendment, as it stands today, is a measure that the whole people who believe in keeping sectarianism out of politics cannot fail to support for it merely bulwarks the principle of divorce of church and state and eliminates state support of denominational or sectarian projects.

There is, of course, some prejudice against the amendment, particularly among Romanists who want to promote papal institutions with state funds—and, these objectors have succeeded in gaining a favorable footing with those who should know but don't, that Rome does not fight those things which would not interfere with her plans and surely if it is part of her plan to profit from state funds the citizens of Massachusetts owe it to themselves and those who will come after them to work for the passage of this amendment and let Rome gain her support as does every other organization professing religious practice.

The Free Press Defense League, "fired to death" of the pussy-footing tactics that only serve to give Rome the perfect chance she seeks, has determined to issue a call to the patriots of Massachusetts to come out in the open. There is nothing in the whole scope of the Curtis-Anderson amendment that cannot be openly discussed and heralded throughout the whole state of Massachusetts to the benefit of every believer in equal rights. There is nothing in the amendment or in the steps to be taken to obtain its passage that demands the secrecy of the closed door. A chosen few can never operate a democracy for any great length of time. A chosen few cannot pass a vital amendment that is to become a part of a state constitution.

THE CURTIS-ANDERSON AMENDMENT IS GOING TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS AND THE VOTERS MUST KNOW WHAT THAT AMENDMENT STANDS FOR, WHAT IT DEMANDS AND WHAT IT DOES NOT DEMAND.

It is the duty of everyone interested in the passage of this amendment to see that the people are not kept in the dark regarding the provisions of this vital measure and the League is going to give every fundamental democrat in the state an opportunity to show his colors RIGHT NOW. JUDGE GILBERT O. NATIONS AND BILLY PARKER ARE TO ADDRESS A MEETING IN THE PEOPLE'S TEMPLE ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER FOURTH. The subject will be the Curtis-Anderson amendment and the purpose will be to enlighten the people and an effort will be put forth to gain sufficient momentum to keep the meetings going until every part of the state has been covered and a master effort made to so bulwark the Massachusetts constitution as to make it forever impossible to inject religion into political issues.

If you believe this campaign is vital or if you believe it should stop right where it is you should at least be fair enough to yourself to attend the meeting October fourth and see what there is in this broad enlightenment campaign to which any mortal man interested in the welfare of all the people can possibly object. Men with a message that will not bear the scrutiny of every man, woman and child in any state, should as a matter of precaution keep in the dark, but the League's belief is that nothing before the people of Massachusetts today will bear the light of day half so well as the question "Shall Massachusetts be made safe for democracy?" The League is interested in the answer to that question. Are you? All that needs to be done by you, TODAY, is call at room 303 Tremont Temple, Boston, and ask about the meeting for October fourth. If you haven't time to call, use the phone. The number is Main 4414W.

If you live in Massachusetts and want a meeting in your community do not fail to call on or write to Mr. Davis Parker, the League's national representative at Room 303 Tremont Temple, Boston.

A good, strong, united pull, a pull without ceasing from now until the constitutional amendments are voted upon is the thing which The Free Press Defense League's representatives in Boston are striving for.

No such thing as factions will be recognized, as such, but only as they are willing to harmonize for the good of the commonwealth on the Curtis-Anderson anti-sectarian amendment for the purpose of forever keeping religion out of politics.

Only by so doing can Massachusetts hope to cultivate and perpetuate the tolerant patriotic spirit of good will and good fellowship which lifted politics to the plane of statesmanship and carried the Constitutional Convention almost unanimously for the anti-sectarian amendment.

The following fearless "live wire" workers together with other earnest men have declared for a frank fearless OPEN campaign of education as to the demands of the anti-sectarian amendment. FREE PRESS DEFENSE LEAGUE COMMITTEE OF GREATER BOSTON—Brenton H. MacCurdy, chairman; Wilton E. Drake, secretary; Arthur W. Joslin, vice-chairman; Jacob Sears, treasurer; J. Winfield Scott; Davis B. Parker, A. B. Crook, C. H. Raymond, James Lyman, C. C. Frost.